of the entrepreneurs for their information and guidance.

Sd/-
(S. Bhavani)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India New Delhi, the 8th November, 1991.

F.No. 10(74)/91-LP

Forwarded to Press Information Bureau for giving vide publicity to the contents of the above Press Note.

Principal Information Officer, Press Information Bureau, New Delhi.

Housing Units in the Country

177. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th November, 1991 to the effect that around 10 million housing units must be built per year to meet the growing demand for housing units by 2000 A.D. in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to accord priority to National Capital Region expansion plan by organising workshop for the benefits of plot-holders, builders, contractors, the representatives of the Financial Institutions in collaboration with the National Housing Bank in Delhi during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The working group on Housing set up in the context of formulation of 8th Plan has estimated that the total housing needs in 8th Plan period i.e. 92-97 in terms of numbers will be 21.7 million dwelling units comprising 15.9 million new construction and 5.8 million upgradation and renovation of unserviceable and old housing stock. The per year requirement on this basis comes to 4.34 million units and not 10 million units.. The Eighth Plan is expected to take care of the housing requirements to the extent of available plan provisions and institutional support.

(c) Proposals for development of various priority towns and counter magnets in NCR have been worked out in the context of 8th Plan in consultation with concerned State Governments and State agencies as well as financial institutions. However, there is no proposal with Government to organise a workshop for this purpose.

Production of Maganese Ore

178. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Maganese Alloy producers have been forced either to cut down production or shut down furnaces due to shortage of high and medium grade maganese ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for non-availability of maganese ore at present and the remedial steps taken by Government so far to ease the situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) With the broad-banding of the ferro alloy industry last year, and its delicensing under the new Industrial Policy announced earlier this year, the inter-play of various emerging market forces may have resulted in some producers of ferro alloys facing temporary shortages of manganese ore which could also have been contributed to by inadequate planning and stocks to take care of short term